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NCEL Powerball Jackpot Reaches \$178 Million

- \$800,000 Winner Collects Prize -

RALEIGH- North Carolina Education Lottery's (NCEL) Powerball players will have their chance at an estimated \$178 million jackpot in Wednesday's drawing – the largest jackpot amount since North Carolina joined the multi-state numbers game. A lucky winner from the July 26 Powerball drawing today claimed his \$800,000 prize and six people won anywhere from \$40,000 to \$10,000 from the July 29 drawing.

Donald Sigmon of Statesville is the latest \$800,000 Powerball winner. The winning ticket was purchased at West Iredell Grocery on Old Mt. Road in Statesville, a store where Sigmon normally stops in for gas and an occasional lottery ticket.

On Wednesday when he stopped by the store, he planned to play a scratch-off game. He had never played Powerball. "The clerk asked me if I wanted to play Powerball and I said ok," Sigmon said. "Then she suggested I Power Play and showed me how to do it."

After leaving the store, Sigmon and his wife, Danette, headed off on vacation. He didn't check to see if he had picked winning numbers until he returned home on Sunday. "I was on the phone talking to my sister-in-law and she was reading me the winning numbers from the newspaper (July 26 draw)," Mrs. Sigmon added. "Donald was standing there with the ticket as I was repeating the numbers."

Sigmon said he was in a state of shock. "I didn't believe it," he said. "I know I looked at that ticket at least 10 times." Sigmon, who has three children, plans to use the money for their college education and pay off the mortgage on his home. He said he chose numbers that had special meaning to him.

Winners from the July 26 Powerball drawing:

<u>Winner</u>	<u>Hometown</u>	<u>Amount Won</u>	<u>Store Where Ticket Was Purchased</u>
Donald Sigmon	Statesville	\$800,000	West Iredell Grocery 2159 Old Mt. Road, Statesville
Joseph Vincent	Charlotte	\$10,000	OSEI Food & Beverage 9001 Nations Ford Rd., Charlotte
Victor Bell	Raleigh	\$10,000	Star Family Stores 1641 Glenwood Ave., Raleigh

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<u>Winner</u>	<u>Hometown</u>	<u>Amount Won</u>	<u>Store Where Ticket Was Purchased</u>
Sharon Peretik	Havelock	\$10,000	Food Lion U.S. Highway 70/Greenfield Boulevard Havelock
James Edenton	Gastonia	\$10,000	Wilco #378 2500 W. Franklin St., Gastonia

Note: Sigmon actually won \$200,000 by matching all five white balls, but not the Powerball. He used the Power Play feature to increase his prize to \$800,000. The Power Play multiplier was four. The \$10,000 winners matched four white balls and the Powerball. They did not Power Play.

Winners from the July 29 Powerball drawing:

<u>Winner</u>	<u>Hometown</u>	<u>Amount Won</u>	<u>Store Where Ticket Was Purchased</u>
Connie Rivenbark	Wilmington	\$40,000	Kangaroo Express #440 6306 Carolina Rd., Wilmington
Unknown		\$40,000	Kangaroo Express #486 6605 Raeford Rd., Fayetteville
Unknown		\$40,000	Friendly Mart #9 501 N. East Blvd., Clinton
Lester Bullock	Lumber Bridge	\$10,000	BP #15 4102 Highway 74 West, Monroe
Unknown		\$10,000	Pit Stop #9 2585 S. Church St., Burlington
Unknown		\$10,000	Bagwell's C-Stop 3252 Auburn-Knightdale Rd., Raleigh

Note: The above winners matched four white balls and the Powerball. Three chose the Power Play feature which multiplied their winnings to \$40,000. The multiplier for the drawing was four.

Instant Scratch-off game winners:

<u>Winner</u>	<u>Hometown</u>	<u>Amount Won</u>	<u>Game Played</u>
Ruth Maye	LaGrange	\$ 9,999	"9's In A Line"
Juan Diaz	Austin, Tex.	\$8,000	"100 Jackpot"
Christopher Gilan	Raleigh	\$7,777	"Ruby Red 7's"

For more information about the NCEL, visit its Web site at www.nc-educationlottery.org or call (919) 715-6886.

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